

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**Missouri Mental Health Commission Meeting**  
**Freeman Business Center**  
**3220 McClelland Blvd.**  
**Joplin, Missouri**

**October 9, 2008**

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**PRESENT**

Phillip McClendon, Chair  
Beth Viviano, Secretary  
Ron Dittamore  
Patricia Bolster, M.D.  
Kathy Carter  
David Vlach, M.D.

**STAFF**

Keith Schafer, Department Director  
Lynn Carter, Deputy Director  
Mark Stringer, Division Director, ADA  
Dr. Joe Parks, Division Director, CPS  
Bernie Simons, Division Director, MRDD  
Bob Bax, Director's Office  
Monica Hoy, Director's Office  
Brent McGinty, DMH Administration  
Jan Heckemeyer, DMH Administration  
Pam Leyhe, Director's Office  
Audrey Hancock, Director's Office  
Cathy Welch, Director's Office  
Leigh Gibson, Consumer Safety  
Rikki Wright, General Counsel  
John Heskett, Office of Child MH

**GUESTS**

Julia Kaufmann, Division of DD  
Kit Glover, Division of DD  
Susan Pritchard-Green, MO Plng Council for DD  
Greg Kramer, Life Skills  
Marilyn Nolan, MOANCOR  
Nikki Straw, Parent  
Bobbi Moseley, Parent  
Edward Duff, Governor's Council on DD  
George Woodward, Lawrence CO DD Board  
Carla Martin, Connections  
Penny Moorehouse-Coates, Joplin Regional Office  
Nancy Young, Joplin Regional Office  
Cindy Langford, Jasper CO SFB  
Alecia Nissen, Jasper CO SFB  
Becky Blackwell, Judevine Center  
Gary Duncan, Freeman Health System  
Vicky Mieseler, Ozark Center  
Mary Parrigon, Ozark Center  
Mary Frerer, Ozark Center  
Paula Baker, Ozark Center  
Jennifer Long, Ozark Center  
Mary Kyser, Ozark Center  
Jhan Hurn, Community Support Services  
Mary Heger, Community Support Services

TOPIC/ISSUE	DISCUSSION
<p><b>CALL TO ORDER/ INTRODUCTIONS</b></p> <p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phillip McClendon called the Missouri Mental Health Commission Meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. on October 9, 2008. The meeting was held at Freeman Business Center, 3220 McClelland Blvd., Joplin, Missouri. Introductions were made. Phillip thanked Paula Baker and Ozark Center and Freeman Hospital staff for their hospitality and for the tours of services and programs.</li> <li>Ron Dittimore made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 11, 2008 Mental Health Commission Meeting. Kathy Carter seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LOCAL PROVIDERS/ PROGRAMS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phillip McClendon introduced George Woodward with the Lawrence County Board for the Developmentally Disabled who shared information on their organization and services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <i>Related Service Program</i> is a voucher program for self-directed services through the Joplin Regional Office.</li> <li>The LCBDD Community Center is open to the community, at no charge, with emphasis on providing activities and resources for people with developmental disabilities and their personal assistants.</li> <li>They provide training for families through Judevine.</li> <li>They provide free CPR and first-aid training for the agencies and parents in Lawrence County.</li> <li>They provide music therapy through Drury University and have seen excellent results.</li> <li>They have a transportation system in Aurora, Marionville, and Verona areas, and plan to expand to Pierce City.</li> <li>They provide community trips almost every month.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Phillip introduced John Vaughn with the Washington Education Center who shared information on the services that the Joplin school system is able to take advantage of and collaborate with in serving people with disabilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joplin has a significant number of students that need highly specialized service. They have a very low incidence of gang violence, but there is a high poverty rate, and high rates of child abuse/neglect and family violence. They have been fortunate to provide the specialized services that many students need. Autism is growing in the district.</li> <li>There is a need for more focus on Attention Deficit Disorder with more training for educators.</li> <li>The population of children with severe emotional disabilities is growing. They are fortunate to be able to collaborate with agencies in the community and use resources more effectively, however, he would like this group to think about how the funding is distributed to be used in a collaborative way.</li> <li>Mr. Vaughn noted the lack of beds and waiting lists with regard to children coming out of the system to go to a less restrictive environment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Phillip introduced Edward Duff with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities who shared information on services he is familiar with in the Joplin and Jasper County area.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ He is a founding member of the NAMI of Missouri affiliate and encourages folks in the area to join. NAMI encompasses Autism Spectrum Disorders in its education, support, and advocacy.</li> <li>▶ He spoke on the integration of primary medical care and mental health services which he advocates that consumers get when they visit a mental health professional. People with mental illness on average die twenty years earlier than the general population, due to non-mental health causes from preventable diseases.</li> <li>▶ Mr. Duff advocates for coordination of care through computerized cross files available to each health professional so that any professional can see all factors. He believes people need to be aware of the affect of mental illness on physical health.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON AUTISM SERVICES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Patricia Bolster, Commissioner, expressed her appreciation for the programs and services that were visited this morning. She shared some background on her son Will who has Autism and noted that we need to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments we saw today. Today was a fantastic place to start with what should be done with these children. She gave a background on the video being viewed today and shared that all these issues in the video are common to families experiencing Autism.</li> <li>• The video, “Autism Speaks” was viewed.</li> <li>• Bernie Simons gave an update on the Division of Developmental Disabilities with regard to Autism. They will receive a Supplemental Budget Item in 2009 for Caseload Growth. He explained the process of determining how many people have an ASD diagnosis. The Blue Ribbon Panel held hearings around the state that helped bring about Senate Bill 768 that created the Commission on Autism and the Office of Autism.</li> <li>• Monica Hoy explained the establishment and background of the Missouri Autism Commission. The Governor’s office was inundated with applications to serve on the Commission from around the state. The statute speaks very specifically to what the Commission is charged with. There are representatives from other state agencies serving on the Commission. The first Autism Commission meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2008. Senator Scott Rupp who authored the legislation is on the Commission.</li> <li>• Bernie noted that we received funding for FY 2008 to develop Centers of Excellence—the Thompson Center in Columbia, Cardinal Glennon in St. Louis, and Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. Another will be in Cape Girardeau.</li> <li>• Julia Kaufmann, Director of the Office of Autism, provided an Autism program summary. There are some resources mentioned within the document that have already been helpful to people. Julia had some updates to that document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ She participated in an Autism Votes conference call for people interested in finding out about the legislation that will be filed mandating insurance coverage for Autism-related therapies.</li> <li>▶ There is a new center for excellence coming to fruition in southeast Missouri. The Board of Regents at Southeast Missouri State University approved the final design and budget for the construction of the Southeast Missouri</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<p>State University Autism Center for Diagnosis and Treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ MRDD received additional appropriation this year for the Rapid Response Initiative. They have agreed to fund half of the Family Resource Specialist in each of the Centers for Excellence, with the Centers to pick up the other half. This person can help families navigate the system after they get the ASD diagnosis. That funding will also be used for work with Project Access, MOFEAT and Autism Speaks to develop an individual and family navigation guide.</li> <li>▶ The University of Missouri Extension Program will be a partner in expanding the Rapid Response Initiative. The Thompson Center applied for and was awarded a grant of about \$1 million entitled, “A Roadmap for Missouri for People with ASD: Expanding Rapid Response.” This grant will expand the Rapid Response program to St. Louis and Kansas City, and a location to be determined in southern Missouri.</li> <li>▶ The system has had a good foundation in Missouri. Some challenges listed on page six of the document are balancing diagnostic services with services at home, and the need to look at the lifespan, in services for adults.</li> <li>▶ Julia referenced the last paragraph in the summary in recognizing people who have played a role in building the response to Autism and thanked them for that foundation.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nikki Straw, Parent of an adult child with Autism, spoke on resources and projects in the Joplin area. She is a member of the Southwest Regional Parent Advisory Group on Autism and is a representative of the state advisory group on autism for DMH. Her comments pertained to the entire state, as well as southwest Missouri. She commended Bernie on wanting to bring the decision making to the people of the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The parent groups have been working on bringing and keeping funding for Autism services in the state since 1991. She noted many programs and services that are available in the southwest part of the state.</li> <li>▶ Nikki noted the transition issues to prepare those with Autism for adult life. Expertise is lacking in working with adults with Autism. She gave examples of adults with Autism who have dealt with issues in the workplace. There is a need for training for those working with adults with Autism. Many adults with Autism have been misdiagnosed with a primary diagnosis of retardation that follows them all their lives, her daughter being an example. This advisory group of parents talked to daycare program partners and got support from those who saw potential. They also received some allocations for software for computer trainings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nikki shared that as parents and guardians, they have the responsibility to teach the children right and wrong and to accept responsibility for their actions. If there are no consequences for those who do not respect the law, she wonders what kind of adults they will become. Parents are asking to be allowed to set boundaries and put in place those natural consequences for actions that keep people safe and continue to teach our children how they are to live in a civilized society. They must be held accountable for their actions.</li> <li>• Dr. Patricia Bolster thanked Nikki for her advocacy and sharing her experience with those who will have to deal with</li> </ul>

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	<p>adult children with Autism and agrees there is not enough help in place for these transitioning adults.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bernie Simons thanked Nikki for sharing and noted that the division has recently hired Darla Wilkerson to fill a position to work with employment and training. On October 1, the division joined the State Employment Leadership Network that will assist them in developing the strategic plan around employment. They plan to fill another position in December that will work with transition.</li></ul>
<b>ADJOURN</b>	Dr. David Vlach made a motion to adjourn; Beth Viviano seconded and the motion to adjourn passed by roll call vote.
<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	The next Mental Health Commission Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2008 at Department of Mental Health in Jefferson City.
<b>ADJOURN</b>	<p>The Mental Health Commission adjourned at 2:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Phillip McClendon, Chair</p>